

D-215  
Chaplain Memorial M. E. Church  
Taylor's Island  
1888  
Private

Historically known as the Chaplain Memorial M. E. Church, this single-story Gothic Revival frame structure is similar to many rural chapels erected across the Eastern Shore landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rectangular frame sanctuary, supported on brick piers, is enhanced with an emblematic entrance and bell tower featuring pointed arch windows and a broach spire characteristic of the Gothic Revival. The side elevations are marked by simple pointed arch windows. The front window follows a tripartite form fitted with colored glass. Built in 1888, the church was named in honor of Dr. John F. Chaplain, who was present on the occasion of the dedication on August 8, 1889.

The history of Methodism on Taylor's Island, however, is largely associated with the development of the Bethlehem Church on Hooper's Neck Road. Following the death of Reverend Francis Asbury in 1816, schisms in the national Methodist Church hierarchy spawned splinter congregations during the decades leading up to the Civil War. The first were the Methodist Protestants in 1828-30, and then during the 1840s, differing attitudes over slave ownership created another divisive issue that led to the creation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. As the Bethlehem congregation sided with the Southern Methodists of the Virginia Conference, that alignment surely alienated some of its island members. An alternative congregation associated with the northern conference in Philadelphia was not established on the island until its organization by the Reverend George Bounds in 1888.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-215

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

Chaplain Memorial M. E. Church

other

Taylor's Island United Methodist Church

### 2. Location

street and number

4128 Bay Shore Road

not for publication

city, town

Taylor's Island

vicinity

county

Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name

Trustees of Chaplain Memorial M. E. Church

street and number

P. O. Box 95

telephone

city, town

Church Creek

state

MD

zip code

21622

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court

liber 3

folio 700

city, town

Cambridge

tax map 59

tax parcel 118

tax ID number 059565

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory



## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-215

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Taylor's Island United Methodist Church, historically Chaplain Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, is located at 4128 Bay Shore Road in the center of Taylor's Island, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built in 1888, the single-story, gable-front, Gothic Revival frame church rests on a low brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rectangular shaped main block is enhanced with a corner entrance and bell tower. The church faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. The interior was not seen.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Taylor's Island United Methodist Church is a single-story, gable-front, Gothic Revival frame structure that stands in the center of Taylor's Island in Dorchester County. The address is 4128 Bay Shore Road. Built in 1888, the single-story frame structure is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The southwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical façade with a corner entrance and bell tower rising on the southwest corner. A long handicapped access ramp executed in concrete leads to the a Gothic arched double door opening which is topped by a three-pane transom. Louvered openings mark the second story belfry, and an octagonal broach spire caps the tower. The adjacent gable end front of the sanctuary is marked by a tripartite colored glass window with pointed arch openings. Stretching across the mid-level of the elevation is a pent eave that wraps the adjacent entrance tower as well. Piercing the upper gable end is a pointed arch colored glass window. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

The northwest and southeast sides of the church are defined by three pointed arch windows fitted with opaque glass. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave with a sloped soffit.

The northeast (rear) elevation features a five-sided apse pierced by small pointed arch windows on each lateral face, and it is covered by a shed roof finished with extended eaves and sloped soffits.

The interior was not seen.



## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-215

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1888

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Historically known as the Chaplain Memorial M. E. Church, this single-story Gothic Revival frame structure is similar to many rural chapels erected across the Eastern Shore landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The rectangular frame sanctuary, supported on brick piers, is enhanced with an emblematic entrance and bell tower featuring pointed arch windows and a broach spire characteristic of the Gothic Revival. The side elevations are marked by simple pointed arch windows; the front window follows a tripartite form fitted with colored glass whereas the side windows are single units fitted with opaque glass. Built in 1888, the church was named in honor of Dr. John F. Chaplain, who was present on the occasion of its dedication on August 8, 1889.<sup>1</sup>

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The history of the Methodism on Taylor's Island is largely associated with the development of the Bethlehem Church on Hooper's Neck Road. However, following the death of Reverend Francis Asbury in 1816, the schisms in the national Methodist Church leadership and its methods during the decades leading up to the Civil War sponsored splinter congregations. The first were the Methodist Protestants in 1828-30, and then during the 1840s, differing attitudes over slave ownership by the national Methodist membership created another divisive issue that spawned the Methodist Episcopal Church South. As the Bethlehem congregation sided with the Southern Methodists of the Virginia Conference, that alignment surely alienated some of its island members. An alternative congregation associated with the northern conference in Philadelphia was not established on the island until its organization by the Reverend George Bounds in 1888.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-215

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

E. C. Hallman, *The Garden of Methodism*, Peninsula Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 1948, p. 304.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4,791 square feet

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Taylor's Island, MD

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	11/10/2010
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# TAYLORS ISLAND QUADRA

MARYLAND

7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (1

5761 III SE  
HUDSON)

386

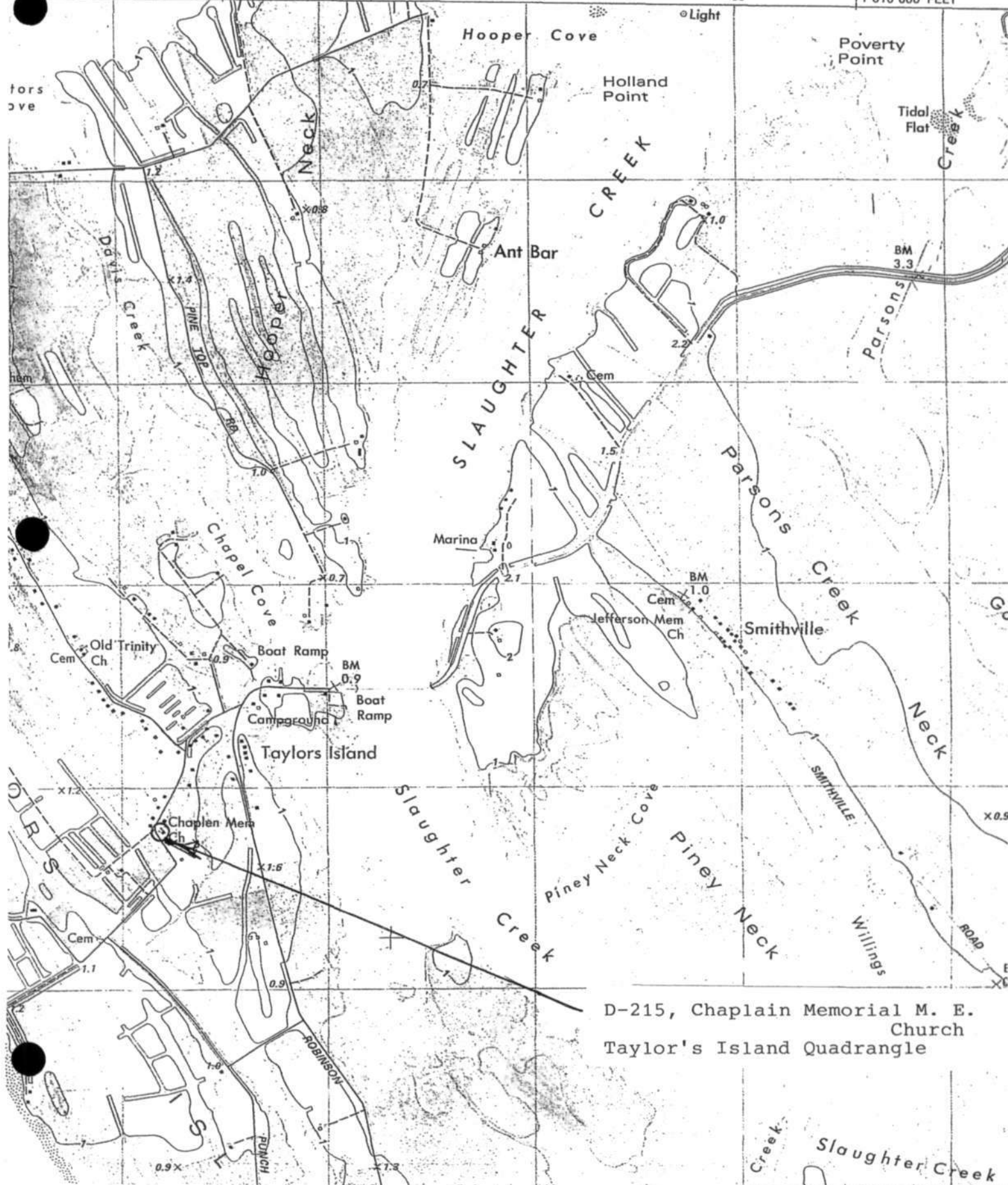
387

17'30"

388

389

1 010 000 FEET









D-215

CHAPLAN M. E. Church

TAYLOR'S ISLAND, DORCHESTER

West ELEVATION Co. Md.

11.2010, PAUL B. TOUANT, PHOTO.

W. & M. D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 1



## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: Chaplin Memorial Church,				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Bay Shore Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Taylor's Island				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One)		<b>OWNERSHIP</b>		<b>STATUS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Chaplin Memorial M. E. Church				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Taylor's Island		STATE: Maryland		21669
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 003/700				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		



## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Chaplin Memorial Church is a one story frame structure, three bays deep, two bays wide, covered with weatherboarding. It has an "A" roof. On the south west side of the west gable is the entrance tower, very much the same as the tower of the Lane Methodist Episcopal chapel, which was built a few years later. The difference is that the size of the tower does not diminish at the mid section. It does, however, have a spire on a hip roof, like the Lane Chapel. The middle portion of the tower is covered with wood shingle.

In the center of the gable on the first floor are three separate stained glass windows. The center being larger than the flankers. At the second story level is another stained glass window. All of the windows on the sides have 4/4 sash and lancet arches. The entrance door has double doors and a lancet transom. The other windows on the sides of the tower on the gable previously mentioned, have a Welsh arch.

The building is constructed on brick piers with infill of concrete block. It is a very attractive church and in the front yard is a large oak tree. The Chapel looks west to Ridgeton Farm.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## B. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☐ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chaplin Memorial Church is a good example of late 19th century and early 20th century ecclesiastical structure in Dorchester. This particular example has a rich collection of vernacular details in the windows. There are rectangular louvers, miter arch, and lancet arch windows. Its location in the grove of oak trees is befitting an ecclesiastical institution. It resembles the church in Church Creek and also Old Field Church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 4, Map 59, p. 118

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant		
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust		DATE Spring, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Shaw House, 21 State Circle		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland	21401

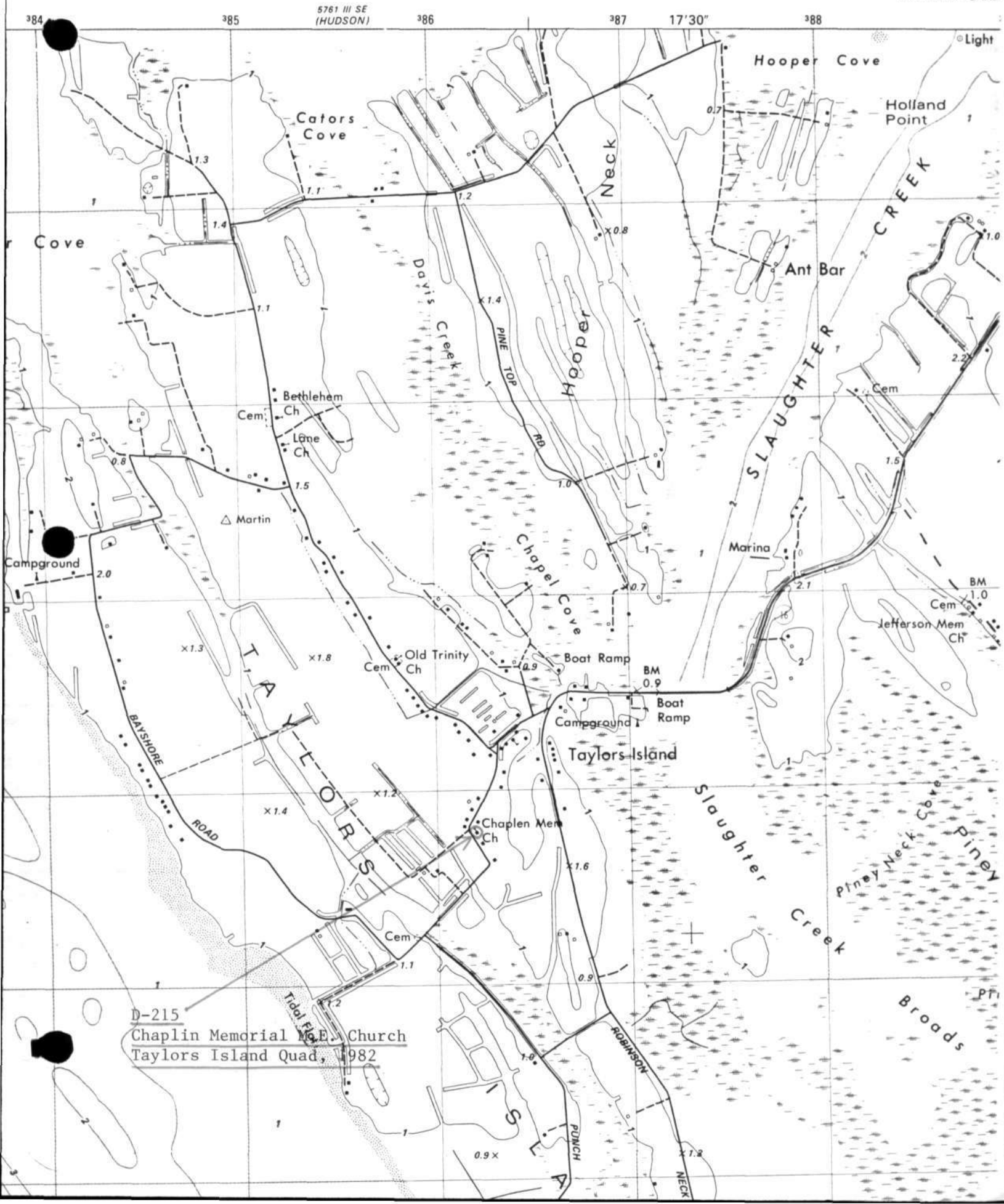
## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature \_\_\_\_\_





D-215  
 Chaplin Memorial M.E. Church  
 Taylors Island Quad, 1982



D-215





D-215

M. Bourne - Spring 1975



13x1.68

53%

D-215





D - ~~214~~ 215